

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Before the first paragraph, please add the following section heading:

BACKGROUND

Before the fifth paragraph, please add the following section heading:

SUMMARY

Before the ninth paragraph, please add the following section heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Before the fourteenth paragraph, please add the following section heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the first paragraph of page 3 please make the following amendments:

The tear string 16, which may also be a strip or tape, can consist for example of a strong plastics material, such ~~as~~ as nylon or PET, preferably coated with a peel seal material for reasons which will become apparent hereinafter.

Please add the following paragraph after the sixth paragraph of page 2:

FIG. 5 is a partial cross sectional diagrammatic view depicting a tear element coated in a peel seal material and attached to a zipper.

Please add the following paragraph at the end of page 4:

FIG. 5 shows a partial cross sectional diagrammatic view depicting a tear element 16' coated with a peel seal material 30. As shown, the tear element 16' may be attached to the zipper 14 by the peel seal material 30. The tear element 16' may be a string tape or strip.